SOMEONE HAS KIDNAPPED THE HUMAN, LUKEN. THEY CALLED NATALI.
LAR! WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
WHAT DID THEY SAY TO HER? WHERE IS SHE?

STAY OUT OF THIS, LAR!
I-I DON'T KNOW WHERE SHE IS...
SUGGAR, TELL YOUR SON TO TELL ME WHERE MY NIECE IS!

SELENA. YOU KNOW WE CAN'T GET INVOLVED.

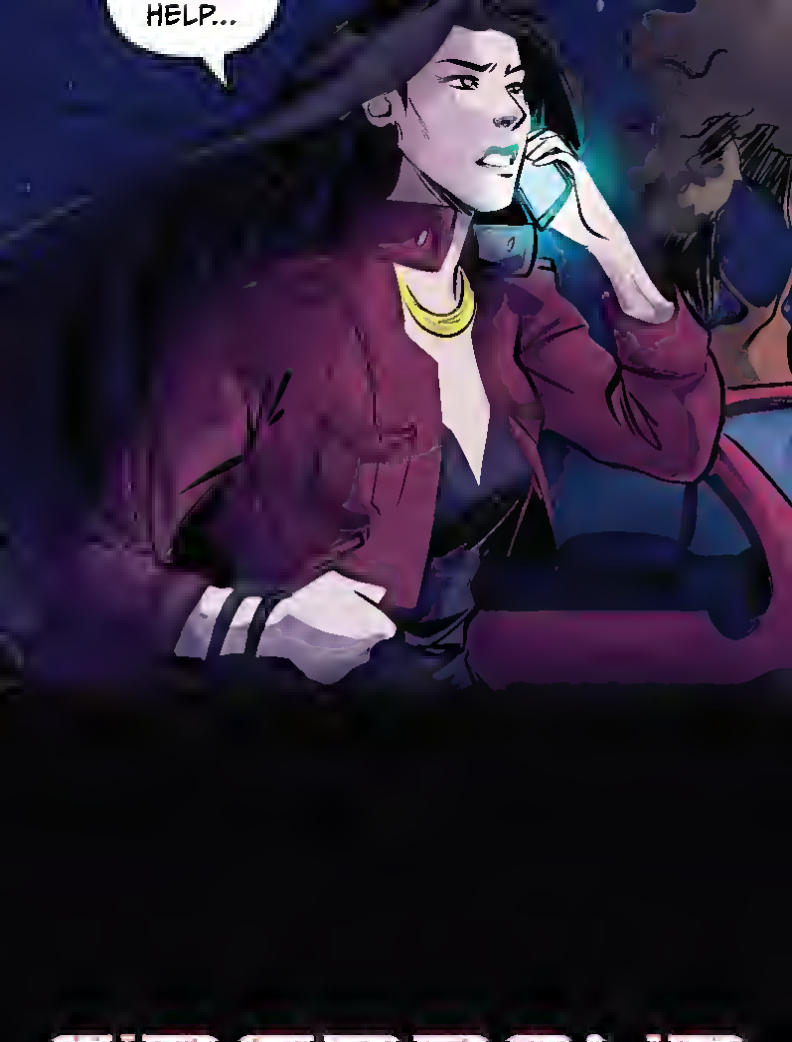
LAR SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN OUT WITH NATALI IN THE FIRST PLACE.

TRUST ME. IT WON'T HAPPEN

AGAIN.

NO. IT WON'T. AND NEITHER WILL THIS...

"TIME TO CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS...


HELP...

FIREBRAND

THE INITIATION OF NATALI PRESANO

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...IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT.

...IN MELISSA'S VW BUG.

THIS IS MY BESTIE MELISSA. MEL, THIS IS NATALI.
GREAT. WHERE TO?
THE WATERFRONT PARK...

OH NO! NOT WITHOUT SELENA! YOU'RE GOING TO GET YOURSELF KILLED! AND ME WITH YOU!
THERE'S NO TIME TO GET HER! WE'VE ALREADY LOST 2 HOURS! I'M NOT LETTING LUKEN DIE!
YOU GO FIND SELENA AFTER YOU GET ME TO THE WATERFRONT!

LUKEN? DIE? WHAT'S GOING ON PREN?

I'LL EXPLAIN LATER. JUST... JUST GET US TO WATERFRONT PARK.

WATERFRONT PARK.
3 AM.

FIND SELENA. TELL HER TO COME. I'M GOING TO FIND LUKEN.

I CAN'T LET YOU DO THIS, NATALI! I *SAW* YOU DEAD!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU *SAW* ME?
TAKE

COVER. DON'T LET ANYONE SEE YOU. IF IT LOOKS LIKE I'M IN TROUBLE, GET HELP. YOU HAVE TO BE ABLE TO LEAD SELENA TO LUKEN IF I DON'T COME OUT.

MEL, GO HOME BEFORE YOU GET IN TROUBLE.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

WITH MISS SUICIDAL HERE...

RRNGG
RRNGG
DAD, DON'T BE ANGRY--

I'D RECOGNIZE THE COCKY WALK OF AN *KUZI* APPRENTICE ANYWHERE. AND YOU CAME ALONE. GOOD GIRL.

WHO ARE YOU? AND WHERE IS LUKEN?
ANSWERS ALL TO COME. THIS WAY.
YOU SURE YOU WANNA BE ALONE WITH ME? PEOPLE END UP DEAD THAT WAY.

I'LL
TAKE MY

I SHOULD BE SCARED. I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO THIS LUNATIC IS, BUT THE THOUGHT OF LOSING LUKEN? SIMPLY. UNBEARABLE.

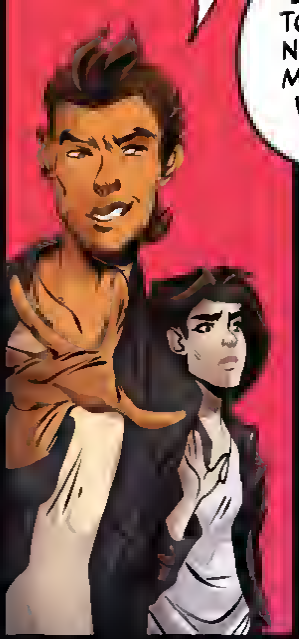
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE...

SE--
YELP!

LET GO OF ME!

WELCOME TO OUR HUMBLE ABODE.
WHY ARE THESE IMPS BATTLE READY LIKE THE ORC ARMY IN RETURN OF THE KING? I'LL REMIND YOU THAT THE ORCS LOST THAT BATTLE...

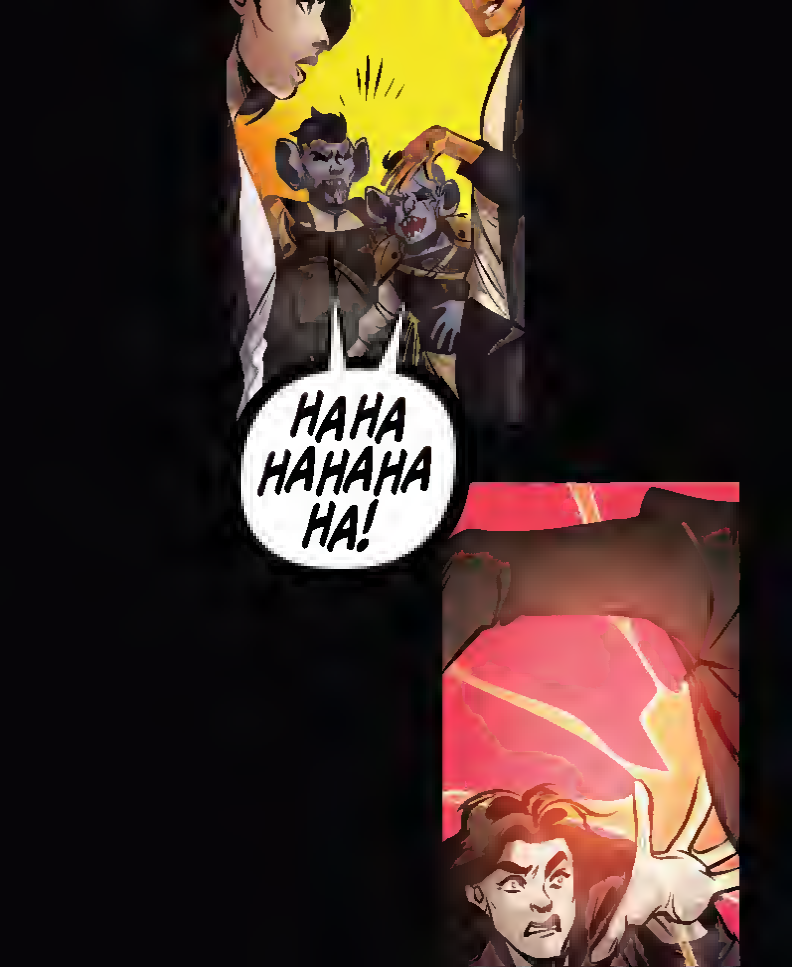
STAND DOWN. THIS ONE ISN'T GOING TO BE ANY TROUBLE. SHE'S JUST THE BAIT.
I'M GOING



DEAD. AND SOON YOUR *(KUZ)* MENTOR WILL BE TOO.

BUT THE APPRENTICE HAS A CHOICE. JOIN US OR DIE WITH THEM.

LUKEN...


HAHA HAHAHA HA!

YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
TSK. TSK. MAGIC IS NEVER SUPPOSED TO BE USED TO KILL.

I BET MARI WOULD LET THIS ONE GO.
NO. THAT BITCH NEVER LET ANYTHING

GO.
STAND DOWN OR THIS ONE DIES TOO.

ENOUGH!
KRAK

"IS THE APPRENTICE DEAD, TXIKI?"
OOOMPH...

"I CERTAINLY HOPE NOT, MY LOVE. WHAT FUN WOULD THERE BE IN THAT?"

TO BE CONTINUED...